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unfriendly, position of the interested outsider, for whom primarily the volume is intended. There are five chapters, entitled respectively, "The Eighteenth Century," "John Wesley," "Methodism in America and Beyond the Seas," "The Divisions and Re-unions of British Methodism," "The Theology and Polity of Methodism." The little volume is one of the best short studies of church history that we have ever seen. It shows the vital relation of the subject to the economic and social environment in which Methodism arose and became a living power; and it will be as useful to students outside of Methodism as to those who are attached to this branch of Christendom. A good bibliography is appended.

**Just Before the Dawn.** The Life and Work of Ninomiya Sontoku. By R. C. Armstrong. New York: Macmillan, 1912. Pp. xxi+273. \$1.50.

Another first-rate contribution to modern mission study. The book describes conditions in Japan just before the "age of enlightenment" which has been spreading all over the East. The introduction is an outline of early reforms and ethical thought in Japan. Part I is on the life of the sage whose name appears in the subtitle of the book. Parts II and III are on the teachings of the sage. The book is carefully done; and it will be of great interest, not only to students of missions, but to the general reader and to the scientific investigator who is tracing out the moral and religious evolution of man.

**Immigrant Forces.** By William P. Shriver. New York: Missionary Education Movement, 1913. Pp. x+277. \$0.50.

The Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada is publishing, at a price absurdly low, a number of significant and valuable works on current questions, with special reference to the religious bearing of these questions. One of the best numbers thus far issued is the volume before us. The author has produced a work which has not only scientific value, but real, human sympathy. Some hint of its human aspects is found in the subtitle, "Factors in the New Democracy." The book views immigration not simply as a "problem," but as a "democratic" problem. While it presents no easy solution and has no special program to urge, it has an atmosphere of suggestion which is calculated to inspire the student. The conclusion to which it gravitates is that the problem of the immigrant, before and after immigrating, is very largely a matter of economic, class relations, bound up with the ever more-pressing question of wealth and poverty (pp. 70, 97, 168, 185, 199). The book deserves careful attention.

**The Modern Call of Missions.** By James S. Dennis, D.D. New York: Revell, 1913. Pp. 340. \$1.50.

A number of articles contributed to various reviews and periodicals during the last few years are here brought together into a book which the author, in his subtitle, calls a study in some of the larger aspects of a great enterprise. Dr. Dennis has already published five volumes on the subject of missions; and this new treatise sketches the missionary movement at the points where it comes in contact with various other lines of human activity. Some of the chapter headings are: "Missions and Diplomacy," "The Missionary Factor in Colonial History," "Commerce and Missions," "The Laymen's Movement," "The Hymnody of Modern Missions." The book not only informs, but kindles enthusiasm; and it is worthy of a place in all libraries covering the subject.

**Christian Faith for Men of Today.** By Ezra Albert Cook, Ph.D. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1913. Pp. xiii+260. \$1.25.

The author is a professor in the Congregational College of Canada, at Montreal. The book is intended, not for professional readers, but for use in college classes, Y.M.C.A., Sunday school, and kindred organizations. It aims to present the essential truths of Christianity in orderly form, in non-technical language, in view of, and in harmony with, those elements of the scientific and religious thought of today which are generally accepted by trained scholars. The author has written with three classes of people in mind: first, young people who are in process of forming their conceptions of Christianity; second, older members of the church, who have lately found occasion to consider whether some changes in their thought about religion are not called for; lastly, persons of intelligence outside the church, who are under the impression that the church is not keeping up with the progress of thought in other spheres. Chapter titles are: "Is Christianity the Best Religion?" "The Value of the Bible as a Written Revelation," "How to Use the Bible," "What Shall We Believe about God?" "Man, Sin, and Salvation," "What Shall We Believe about Jesus?" "What Shall We Believe about the Last Things and the Future Life?" "How Shall We Cultivate and Express the Best Faith?"

**Wheel-Chair Philosophy.** By John Leonard Cole. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1913. Pp. xii+154. \$0.75.

If you have an acquaintance or a friend who, either through accident or disease, belongs to the great army of "shut-in" folks, you can hardly

make a mistake if you give him John Leonard Cole's *Wheel-Chair Philosophy*. This is a unique book. We are all used to sermons on patience, resignation, fortitude, and courage, in which the subject is treated in a general, abstract way. But here is a concrete homily which merely puts into words the author's actual experience of frightful suffering and ultimate recovery, wherein faith rose triumphant. Mr. Cole met with a terrible accident; and he writes in the hope that others who sit in the shadow of darkness may find cheer and know the peace that passeth understanding.

**The Renaissance of Faith.** By Richard Roberts. New York: Revell, 1912. Pp. 318. \$1.50.

A very stimulating book by a London clergyman who is pastor of the Crouch Hill Presbyterian Church in the English metropolis, and president of the Metropolitan Council of Evangelical Free Churches. The introduction to the volume is from the pen of Professor G. A. Johnston Ross. The book gives American clergymen an excellent opportunity to look at today's world through the eyes of a well-informed, alert colleague over the sea, and to know what men of his type are thinking with reference to the spiritual, scientific, and economic problems of our time as they touch upon religion and the church. Mr. Roberts believes that we are on the verge of a new birth of the spirit; and his vivid chapters present an array of material which cannot fail to deepen faith and inspire enthusiasm. The author's position is that of the liberal who maintains the continuity of Christian experience in all ages, while accepting the objective results of evolution and biblical criticism.

**Why Does Not God Intervene? And Other Questions.** By Frank Ballard. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1912. Pp. x+348. \$1.50 net.

In frank, constructive fashion and with decided warmth of conviction, the author deals with the ever-present questions of God, Pain and Evil, Salvation, the Bible, the Church, Immortality, and Revivals. He does not spare in his criticism of numerous orthodox positions; he insists that both enemies and friends of religion must be reverent and scientific in their statement of truth; he passionately defends God as an Infinite Father whose law is always love, and, in clear summaries, gives the strongest modern reasons for holding today the great verities of the Christian faith. Many people will doubtless find new zeal and hope through reading these well-written pages.

Three more numbers of the "Short Course Series" (Scribner, 50 cents each) are before us. One is entitled *Jehovah-Jesus*, and is the work of Dr. Thomas Whitelaw, of Kilmarnock. This little treatise undertakes to follow out the spiritual unfolding of the Jehovah-ideal as it runs through the Old Testament and reaches its culmination in Jesus. The author says that he is "tolerably conversant with modern theories of the composition of the Gospels," but that he is not persuaded that they are well grounded (p. 9). As a practical work, adapted to homiletical and devotional use, it will be serviceable not only to those who hold the stricter traditional views, but to many others. The form of the book is such that one who dissents from some of its pre-suppositions would not willingly enter into controversy on the basis of it.

Covering part of the same ground is *The Song and the Soil* by Professor W. G. Jordan, of Queen's University, Canada. This is one of the best numbers in the series. It is a devotional study of the missionary idea in the Old Testament, and is very satisfactory from the point of view of scholarship. The justification of the title is apparent when the author's point of departure comes into view. He sets out from Psalm 137, in which the exiles cry, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" and he shows that in its present translation the question loses the keen edge that it has in its Hebrew and Babylonian setting. Jehovah was at first regarded by the Hebrews as a national deity whose song could not be sung on foreign soil; and the idea that the whole earth will come to the knowledge of him was a gradual growth. This "missionary thought of the Old Testament" is developed in a spiritual perspective with great skill.

In a volume entitled *Suggestions for the Spiritual Life* (Funk & Wagnalls, \$1.40), Professor G. L. Raymond, of the George Washington University, collects a number of inspiring chapel talks to students. The author discusses many questions of vital interest to college men.

Under the title *Why Go to College* (Century Co., \$1.25), Clayton Sedgwick Cooper adds a worthy volume to the extensive literature dealing with education as it relates to the young man of today. He emphasizes the spiritual values of college life. The book is a good one to put in the hands of youths looking forward to college.

A collection of sermons by the late Rev. George Whitefield Fisher, all delivered before 1884, appears under the title *From a Village Pulpit* (Revell, \$1.00). These discourses have a rugged power, and can be studied with profit by the young preacher.